

## Message Text

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22

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

MCT-01 OMB-01 SAM-01 ACDA-07 SSM-03 /083 W

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R 290523Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6322

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 4578

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LE, SA, SY, KU

SUBJECT: PLO LEADER REPORTEDLY OPTIMISTIC ON ARAB SUMMIT AND  
LEBANESE SITUATION; LAUDS ARAFAT, SADAT, AND SARKIS

1. PLO LEADER KHALID AL HASSAN DEPARTED KUWAIT FOR MADRID  
SEPT 27 TO REPRESENT PLO AT INTERPARLIAMENTARY UNION  
MEETING, BUT BEFORE LEAVING HE REPORTEDLY TOLD KUWAITI  
PRESS (AL ANBA, SEPT 28) THAT THE "SOLUTION" TO THE  
LEBANESE PROBLEM IS "KNOCKING AT THE DOOR." AL HASSAN  
REPORTED TO HAVE SAID THAT IT IS "CLEAR" THAT THE RESULTS  
OF RECENT MEETINGS BETWEEN PARTIES TO LEBANESE CONFLICT  
INDICATE A DESIRE FOR A "POLITICAL SOLUTION," THAT  
LEBANESE POLITICIANS HAVE BEGUN TO MOVE IN ACCORDANCE WITH  
"RULES OF THE GAME," AND THAT ARAB MINI-SUMMIT "WILL BE  
HELD VERY SOON."

2. AL HASSAN ALSO REPORTEDLY EXPRESSED "DEEP THANKS"  
TO PRES. SADAT ON HIS STAND ON LEBANESE ISSUES AND HIS  
TREATMENT OF BOTH PRES. SARKIS AND PLO'S ARAFAT. HE WISHED  
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SADAT WOULD SEND TROOPS TO PARTICIPATE IN LEBANESE PEACE-

KEEPING. AL HASSAN UNDERLINED ARAFATS "COURAGE" AND "FULL POLITICAL RESPONSIBILITY" FOR PALESTINIAN MOVEMENT INHERENT IN HIS OFFER OF UNILATERAL CEASE FIRE AND ROLE IN SECOND SHTURA MEETING, WHICH HE SAID HAD ALLOWED PRES. SARKIS WIDE LEEWAY IN DEALING WITH LEBANESE CRISIS. HE ALSO PRAISED SARKIS FOR "POSITIVE ATTITUDE."

3. COMMENT. KHALID AL HASSAN SEEMS TO BE CONTINUING HIS ROLE AS PERSONAL ENVOY AND SPOKESMAN FOR ARAFAT. AL HASSAN ALSO SEEMS MORE AND MORE TO BE SPEAKING AS THE VOICE OF FATAH CONSERVATIVES, AND CONCEIVABLY IS BEING USED BY ARAFAT TO ARTICULATE VIEWS WHICH ARAFAT HIMSELF HOLDS BUT MAY FEEL HE CANNOT POLITICALLY AFFORD TO SET FORTH. IN SPITE OF HIS "RETREAT" TO KUWAIT AND AWAY FROM THE MAIN-STREAM OF FATAH DECISION-MAKING, AL HASSAN IS BELIEVED TO REMAIN VERY CLOSE TO ARAFAT AND DERIVES MANDATE FOR CURRENT ACTIVITY ON FATAH'S BEHALF DIRECTLY FROM HIM. MAESTRONE

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